

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A maleimide cluster comprising at least one a core molecule wherein at least two ~~five~~ or more maleimides are ~~each~~ attached to the core and optionally comprising a protein covalently attached to the maleimide.

2. (Currently amended) The A maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core is a carbohydrate or cholic acid and comprising a carbohydrate core wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core.

3. (Currently amended) The A maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the maleimides are attached to the core by a linker comprising a core molecule wherein five or more maleimides are each attached to the core by a linker.

4. (Currently amended) The A maleimide cluster according to claim 2 wherein the comprising a carbohydrate core wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core by a linker.

5-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The A maleimide cluster according to claim 1, comprising a core molecule wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core and wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, polyols, oligosaccharides, cyclic oligosaccharides, polyamines, cholic acid, cholesterol, cyclic peptides, porphyrins and calyx[4]arene.

10. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster of claim 7, wherein the core is a monosaccharide.

11. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster of claim 7, wherein the core is a polyol.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The A-maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises comprising cyclodextrin and wherein one or more maleimides are each attached to the cyclodextrin by a linker.

16. (Currently amended) The A maleimide cluster according to claim 1 comprising at least two cores and wherein each core contains one or more maleimides.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A multivalent peptide or protein comprising the maleimide cluster of claim 1 any one of claims 1-18 with a protein peptides or proteins covalently attached to each of the maleimide, wherein proteins attached to the maleimides have the same or different amino acid sequences.

20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a peptide drug comprising administering a multivalent peptide ~~or protein~~ containing a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide ~~or protein~~ drug to a patient in need thereof, wherein the multivalent peptide ~~or protein~~ comprises peptides ~~or proteins~~ covalently attached to the maleimide cluster of claim 2 any one of claims 1-18.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the covalently attached peptides ~~or proteins~~ comprises are identical in their amino acid sequence or differ in the amino acid sequence.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of making a multivalent peptide or protein comprising contacting peptides ~~or~~ proteins containing a thiol group with the maleimide cluster according to claim 2 and forming a covalent bond thereto of any one of claims 1-18.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the protein comprises ~~are~~ identical in amino acid sequence or differ in the amino acid sequence.

30-36 (Cancelled)

37. (New) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 comprising a protein covalently attached to each maleimide, wherein the protein is an HIV antigen.